

definite records, the late Dr. S. T. Moses's statement, 'The dugong is said to have been caught in a *bush vada* (a type of fence net) near Sachana in 1877', bears repeating (Moses, 1942).

8. For a recent informative account on the Indian dugong, reference may be made to the article by Jones (1959). It might interest all animal lovers in general and those interested in the conservation of marine life in particular that steps are being taken by the Marine Biological Association of India for the conservation of this animal. It is earnestly hoped that the Dugong Research and Conservation Fund, started under the auspices of the Association, will receive support from all quarters.

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September 22, 1960.

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3. 'THE HISPID HARE, *CAPROLAGUS HISPIDUS* (PEARSON)'

With reference to your interesting note in the *Journal* for August 1960 (Vol. 57, No. 2, p. 400) the following may be worth recording.

The Hispid Hare was not uncommon in parts of the Goalpara Forest Division, Assam, when I served there from 1907 to 1911. They lived mainly in Ulu-grass (*Imperata* sp.) i.e. thatch 3 or 4 ft. high which at that time covered considerable stretches of the drier grass-lands. We occasionally shot one when out with a line of elephants and thought them quite good eating. Unfortunately, as we then had no idea of their impending scarcity, I never kept a skin or skull, and though I remember making a water-colour sketch this is long since lost. My recollection is of an animal very like your photograph of the Van Ingen specimen. The ears, though short and normally laid back and held together, could certainly not be described

as 'not projecting beyond the fur'. I find two old pencil notes in my copy of Blanford reading: 'body more the shape of a guinea-pig than a hare' and 'some say he is not good eating but I have found him all right'.

My Divisional Forest Officer, the late T. H. Monteath, told me that nobody knew whether the young were born blind and naked in burrows or fully developed in the open and urged me to try to find out as he had never found a burrow himself. I searched likely spots after a grass fire but never found a burrow though I saw a few shallow 'scrapes', such as rabbits make, which *might* have been due to hispid hare. When, in 1911, I was transferred from Goalpara to Buxa Division (now in W. Bengal), Monteath, who had been in Buxa earlier, told me I should find the hispid hare there but I saw very few—only one that I can be positive about. In my early days in Buxa I fairly often saw movements in Ulu-grass which I had come to associate with groups either of hispid hare or of pigmy hog, but by that time we realized that both these species were becoming rare for I remember being asked to try to get a live pair of either for the Calcutta zoo.

Until I read your article I had not realized how rare the hispid hare had become in India. Is it known to occur elsewhere? I ask because, while a prisoner in Singapore, a friend told me of a hare or rabbit that he had seen in southern Thailand which, because it lived in parties in *kajang* (the Malay equivalent of Ulu-grass) sounded more like the hispid than the Indian hare. Unfortunately I have lost touch with my informant and cannot even remember his name.

THE SANDS HOUSE,
SOUTH NEWINGTON,
BANBURY, OXON, ENGLAND,
February 1, 1961.

E. O. SHEBBEARE

4. PARENTAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FEEDING OF NESTLINGS IN THE INDIAN ROBIN [*SAXICOLOIDES* *FULICATA* (LINN.)]

A pair of Indian Robins [*Saxicoloides fulicata* (Linn.)] built their nest in my room, between two toffee tins placed on a narrow wall-shelf at a height of about 6 ft. (c. 2 m.). The nest was ready on the 2nd of July 1960; the first egg was seen on the morning of